

M/Gen. E. G. Lansdale  
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1917 Wakefield Street  
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12 January 1973

Charles R Nesson  
Suite 612  
125 West Fourth Street  
Los Angeles, California, 90013

Dear Mr Nesson:

Thank you for your letter of 5 January, which arrived yesterday, with the copy of the indictment against Dan Ellsberg. I'm happy to have this added assurance from you that the particular memos of mine, whose revelation endangered or damaged some Asians whom I believe to be quite innocent victims, were not released by Dan nor in his indictment.

As for your second thought, that I consider testifying for Dan about injury to our national defense, I must admit that I've given this some consideration for some time now, knowing that the main thrust of your defense would be to prove no injury. I've concluded that, due to my affection for Dan, I could help him best by ducking out of being a witness for either defense or prosecution. The reason is that I've written and lectured too much about the way a politburo, such as the one in Hanoi, wages war. I'd be wide open for questions about my views on this point. Le Duan, of Hanoi, explained the strategy against us as one of "exploiting the internal contradictions in the enemy camp". I feel certain that there was enough revealing detail of our "contradictions" in the papers Dan released to have aided the politburo in its deliberations towards decisions in the conduct of the war against us. I would have to admit this under oath. It sure wouldn't help your case. And, it would be quite different from the conventional military viewpoint, which is the one I gather you are seeking.

Sincerely,

E G Lansdale